

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A lingual orthodontic bracket-(4), comprising:
  - a base-(2) adapted to be fastened onto the lingual side of a tooth;
  - a main body-(2) raising from the base-(2), said main body being constructed in a single piece with the base-(2) and having a plurality of projecting engaging tabs-(4,5,6) apt to engage and retain a binding system-(9) for the dental arc;
  - a housing-(3) for an orthodontic wire-(8) which extends along the dental arc, said housing-(3) being interposed between the tabs-(4,5,6) and inclined so to form an acute angle with respect to the base-(2), said acute angle opening towards a bottom of the tooth when the bracket is fastened onto the inclined lingual side of the tooth; and
  - a retaining member-(7) for retaining the orthodontic wire within said housing-(3), wherein said retaining member-(7) faces said housing-(3) and extends only along a limited segment-(30) of the latter, the arrangement being such that said retaining member-(7) abuts the orthodontic wire-(8) received in said housing-(3).
- 2-14 (canceled)
15. (currently amended) An orthodontic implant-(100) for lingual orthodontics, comprising an orthodontic bracket-(4) as claimed in claim 1.
16. (canceled)

17. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining member is in the form of a projecting fin.
18. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining member has a substantially wedge shaped profile.
19. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining member is in a centred position relative to said housing.
20. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining member is integral with the remaining part of the bracket itself.
21. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining member is constructed in a single piece with the remaining part of the bracket itself.
22. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining member is arranged superiorly to the tabs of said plurality.
23. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining member has a rounded profile apt not to injure the patient's tongue.
24. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, having a thickness, defined between said base and said retaining member, included in an interval of about  $1 \pm 1.2$  mm.

25. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of tabs comprises a first, a second and a third tab, said first and second tab being arranged at the opposite side of said housing with respect to said third tab.
26. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 25, wherein said retaining member is arranged between said first and second tab and is oriented in the opposite direction relative thereto.
27. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tabs of said plurality have a rounded profile apt not to injure the patient's tongue.
28. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing is in the form of a groove extending transversely relative to said base.
29. (new) The orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing is defined by two or more walls set longitudinally side by side, having a cross section with a broken-line profile.
30. (new) The orthodontic implant as claimed in claim 15, comprising an orthodontic wire apt to be inserted in said housing and, in such an arrangement, to abut said retaining member.